West Point

July 10th 1821

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir

I regretted much that I did not have an opportunity of seeing you when in N. York, and should not have left without doing so had it not been limited in time — Expecting however that you would call at N. Griffith's I left the Plants in his charge to be delivered to you and it must have been accidental that they were not put in your hands at the time of your first call — I should have written on the subject long since had it not been for the most pressing official engagements added to a state of illness in my family — Yours of the 6th came to hand yesterday and I hasten to reply to it — My views for publishing the scientific results of the expedition do embrace a Chapter on the vegitable productions of the N. West and I have for that purpose provided myself with notes on the forest growth in all the distinct tho which we passed — by incorporating these notes with the more scientific notices which you shall give of the collection; and embracing at the same time

pect after information as many be extant I have thought that I should acquit myself of all ~~this~~ obligations in this Department especialy when we consider the shortness of the Term and the very untoward circumstances under which the botanical observations & the little collection I have furnished you were made — At the mean time it does not appear to me inconsistent with my plan that the Catalogue should be made public thro' the medium of Dr. Silliman's Journal; and Indeed I would rather recede a little from my plan if that should be necessary. How to object to this I see; as I am myself under some obligations to that Gentleman, which it is at present utterly out of my power to discharge. The materials for the 9th No. of the Journal are collecting & I would suggest that the catalogue if it can be prepared in season should by all means be furnished —

my proposed publication without pretending to any thing like a systematic account, will give the substance of what is at present known of the discription & Physical Geography of the N. western District of the ~~U.~~ U.S. (with a map) The Chapter above proposed will probably differ considerably in form and character from the article as it will appear in Silliman's Journal and in making use of the facts contained in this I shall willingly make reference to that publication — ~~Does~~ this meet your ideas.[2] —

With respect to the names of the new species you would do me an honor for which I am grateful, but to which I fear I have two

slightest pretentions — If I have any merit in Botany it is the very humble one of a mere collector & I would regard it as more wounding the dignity of the science. That its names should be conferred on those who can claim to be ranked among its benefactors.

I do not recognize the Indian plant Kinni-kinneck in the catalogue — I think there were some specimins in the Lake Huron Box. It is a creeping plant somewhat like the Mitchella with a small pink white bell shaped flower; resembling as nearly as I recollect that of the Convallaria but I shall be in N.Y. probably in a few days & will embrace the opportunity of looking over the plants with you. There are many things in it which I shall look at with new interest now, that their rank & station in the vegitable kingdom is known ——— I have been told that the place of the wild rice is rather problematical — do the Specimins of that plant afford any clue to the solution? — I think it monacious but say more when I see you ———

BOTANY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Mr. Schoolcraft has inserted a very insidious note of [illegible] in his work, on the Strontian of Mops Island. The more so as Mr. S was himself present when the subject was discussed between Bird & myself — I will not quote the words of the note as you have it doubtless before you, but only observe that the implication of it having been found on the main shore, if it alludes to my discovery is wholly false. I never asserted that it was found on the main shore, my Locality was on Mops or as Mr. Bird has named it Strontian Island and on the very spot where Mr. B (accidentaly no doubt as Mr. DeRumy was with me and accompanied him also) has since discovered it. The only merit which I can accord to Mr. B. if indeed there is any merit about it, is in having opened the vein farther than I did. The discovery I declare was made at his hands ——— The Chicanery of Mr. Bird is truely contemptable

but I have given you already too much trouble about this and will only subscribe myself

Yours very Truly

D B Douglass

Dr. Torrey

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HERBARIUM
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Dr. John Torrey
New York City

D. B. Douglass
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